

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1

Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Spring/Summer 2015

There is a long history of the McFarlands in Bainbridge with a corner named after them – *Bill Takacs*



Elwyn Ray McFarland, 1883—1962, descendant of John W. McFarland and Agnes Robbins. He sawed lumber in winter time and trashed grain for farmers in the summer all with steam power.

In two previous newsletter articles, I talked about my farming experience as a young man in Bainbridge and business contacts in the area, reviewed the creation of Seliga's Restaurant at the corner of E. Washington Street (old Rt. 422) and Chillicothe Road (Rt. 306), and summarized the background for the well-liked Nash's Restaurant. Left unsaid is brief early history of land ownership for the area still referred to as "McFarland Corners" and for parcels north of the intersection.

A property map of 1900 shows John W. McFarland, a direct descendant of the 1818 pioneer family who came to settle in Bainbridge from Massachusetts, owned three of four properties at the intersection. In 1916, John's heirs sold some 24 acres of their property at the intersection to George and Jessie Sykes, who had been livery stable proprietors in Buffalo, New

York. All of the McFarland heirs in this transaction had to sign off on the deed and included Agnes McFarland, Fannie L. Laughlin, George B. Laughlin, Clarence McFarland, Elvina McFarland and Elwyn R. McFarland. (See maps page 4)

In 1921 Jessie Sykes sold the triangular parcel bordering west of Chillicothe Road and north of East Washington Street to John C. Meek. Three years later, she sold a parcel to the northeast to Nellie Mathews. That same year, 1924, Sykes sold parcels west of the intersection to Carl Geisler and another parcel to Nellie Mathews. In 1926, another parcel was sold to John and Gertrude Burgess.

A 1928 map shows the Sykes only owning a prime parcel at the southwest corner of the famed intersection. Gradually livery stables gave way to gas stations as the automobile became the preeminent mode of transportation. Part of the Sykes' property became the site of a gas station operated by George Sykes' nephew Gerald Belnap.

On the 1928 map, one can see the number "4" on the parcel of Sykes' property that was sold to John and Susan Seliga in 1936. The Seligas operated a restaurant along E. Washington Street where the Shell gas station now stands. In 1963, the widow Susan Seliga sold the corner consisting of almost two acres to the Shell Oil Company.

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Continued on page 4 The structure was moved south on the property so as to face Chillicothe Rd. and soon became a restaurant for Gladys and Harold Nash. It operated until 2008 when it was demolished and the property became a Dunkin' Donuts.

Today, the only visible reminder of the once substantial McFarland property is a white house to the south of the "green awning" establishments. That home, which had also been the location of the first Bainbridge telephone exchange, still stands. Further south is the "McFarland Cemetery" located at the bottom of the Chillicothe Road, across from an entrance to Lake Lucerne. Visitors can park on the west side of the road, carefully cross the road, and walk up a small incline to view the cemetery, which is slightly back in the woods.

Another noted family name from a previous era was Shippy particularly Horace and Roy. Roy was an uncle to Pat (Miller) Scotland who encouraged me to do research into the background of previous owners of area properties, although I have not included detailed genealogy. Pat's grandfather was Horace Shippy, a blacksmith. He built his shop in 1920, shoeing horses and repairing farm equipment. My mother told me her father would send her to the business with their horses to be shod. She would ride one horse and take the other in lead. By 1940 the horse was giving way to the tractor and Horace was looking for other work.

About that time World War II began and a fellow by the name of Arthur Stock came along and asked Horace if he could a rent space to put a lathe in his shop and do some welding for a new project he had invented. He hired Pierce Sheldon to run the turret lathe and manage the company. The operation was a great success. They purchased land just north of Lowe's Greenhouse and built a plant that was in operation in 1943, producing for the war effort. Stock Equipment Company has since grown into a worldwide business that provides innovative solutions and technology for cold-fired fuel power plants and industrial boilers, among other products. *My thanks to Pat Scotland and Barbara Hesse for assisting with this article.*

Below is a copy of the deed transferring the property from McFarland to George & Jessie Sykes

Recorded August 7th 1900
Recorded August 7th 1900
See 72 23

Herbert L. Williams,
Justice of the Peace of
Chillicothe Township
W. S. Lord Recorder
By E. R. Day

33689

Know all men by these presents; That (We, Agnes McFarland, unwidow, and Jennie L. Laughlin and Clarence E. McFarland, and Elmer S. McFarland, all being the heirs of John H. McFarland, deceased,) the grantors for the consideration of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) received to our full satisfaction of George B. Sykes and Jessie E. Sykes the grantees do give grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said grantees, their heirs and assigns, the following described premises situated in the Township of Bainbridge, County of George and State of Ohio; and known as being a part

Know All Men by These Presents: That I, Jennie E. Sykes

for the consideration of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration received to my full satisfaction of John W. Seliga and Susett H. Seliga

do Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto the said Grantors their heirs and assigns, the following described premises situated in the Township of Bainbridge, County of Geauga and State of Ohio, and known as being a part of Original Lot No. 25, Tract No. 1, in said Township, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of said Lot No. 25 in the center line of Chillicothe Road, so called; thence northerly in the center of said road to the intersection of the center line of said Chillicothe Road with the center line of the diagonal road from Chagrin Falls to Auburn; thence northwesterly, along the center line of said road from Chagrin Falls to Auburn, about 7.17 chains to the north-east corner of land conveyed by Jessie E. Sykes, et al to Nellie Mathews by deed dated June 5, 1924, and recorded in Volume 167, Page 601, of Geauga County Records; thence southerly, along the east line of said land so conveyed to Nellie Mathews as aforesaid, 7.67 chains to the south line of said Lot No. 25; thence east, along the south line of said Lot No. 25, to the place of beginning.

Being the same land as conveyed to George D. Sykes and Jessie E. Sykes by deed dated July 8, 1916, and recorded in Vol. 147, page 12, of Geauga County Records; excepting therefrom three parcels of land conveyed and described in the following deeds, to-wit: Jessie E. Sykes, et al. to John C. Monk, dated July 9, 1921, and recorded in Vol. 159, Page 596, of Geauga County Records; Jessie E. Sykes et al. to A. Carl Geisler et al. dated May 24, 1924, and recorded in Vol. 167, Page 625 of Geauga County Records; Jessie E. Sykes, et al. to Nellie Mathews, dated June 5, 1924, and recorded in Vol. 167, Page 601, of Geauga County Records.

Excepting and excluding from the premises first above described a parcel of land containing 1.952 acres as conveyed by Jessie E. Sykes to John C. Burgess and Gertrude L. Burgess by deed dated Aug. 24, 1925, and recorded in Vol. 177, Page 525, of Geauga County Records.

It being intended to convey hereby a parcel of land containing about 2.05 acres.

Above—Deed showing property transfer Sykes to Seliga

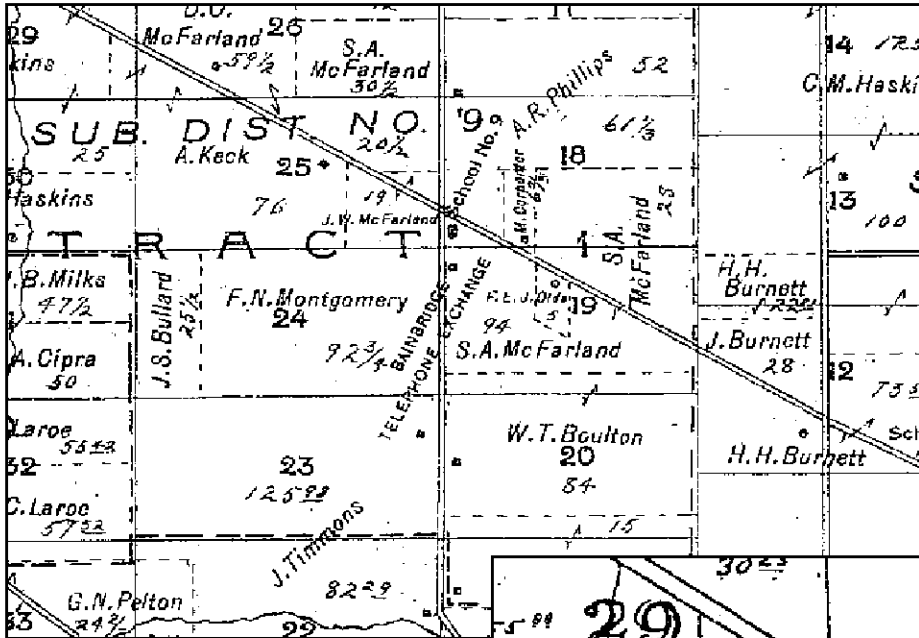
Below—Deed showing Property transfer from Seliga to Shell Oil

WARRANTY DEED

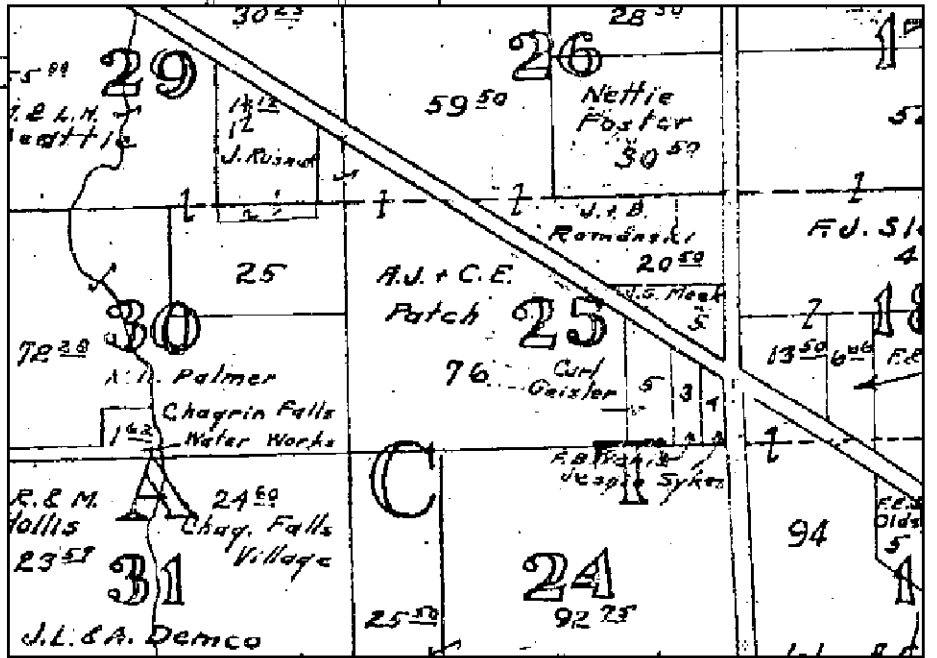
THIS DEED, dated March 4, 1963, by SUSAN H. SELIGA, a widow and over 21 years of age, of 5500 Chillicothe Road in Chagrin Falls, Ohio (herein called "GRANTOR"), to SHELL OIL COMPANY, a Delaware corporation with offices at 50 West 50th Street, New York, New York (herein called "GRANTEE");



Grave Stone of George D. Sykes and Jesse Graham Sykes who were buried in Riverview Cemetery, Briar Hill in Russell, Township



1900 Map showing McFarland property at McFarland's Corners



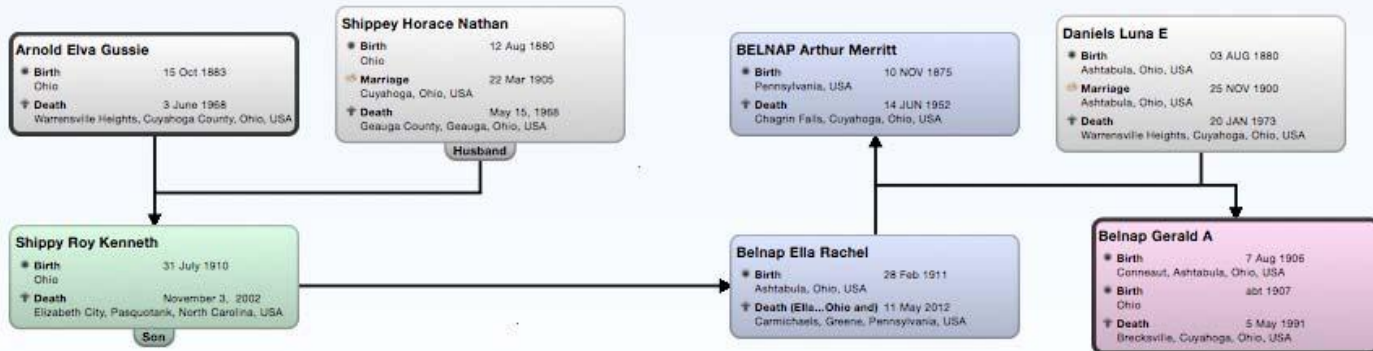
1928 Showing George Sykes four acres property at McFarland's Corners



McFarland Cemetery entrance at the bottom of Lake Lucerne Hill



Shippy house center of Bainbridge with the blacksmith shop on right side of house that was also the Stock Engineering Co.



Showing Shippy / Belnap relationship



Left to Right—Paul Pfouts, Paul Gardner, Perace Sheldon, Fred Stoneman, Horace Shippy and Len Eames

Chagrin Falls Cross Fit

Summer Concert Series

Heritage Park Gazebo

One Night Only

July 21 7-9 pm

Rock Radio Band

Band Sponsored by: Skala Insurance

The Bissell-Tucek House and Museum will open their doors at 6:30 and will remain open during the concert. Visit the house for a tour and fun and enjoy ice cream! Courtesy of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society.

 Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce
Established 1943

cvcc.org
440.247.6607

This is at the Gazebo between the Bissell - Tucek House and the Bainbridge Fire Station



Another successful garage sale

The 3rd annual BTHS garage sale was held on June 13 amidst threatening rain all day. It was another successful fundraiser for the society, with more than several hundred area residents attending. We netted more than \$1,200. Thanks to our many members who made themselves available much of the day.

We owe special thanks to Carolyn and Chuck McClintock who again took most of the "extras" that had not sold by late afternoon. They will make them available along with other items on August 6, 7, and 8 from 9-5 at a garage sale at their home at 18900 Haskins Road. Proceeds will go to the Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Please stop by and indicate you are a member from the historical society.

New Members Welcomed

We are pleased to welcome Grace Henry and George Dzurik into leadership positions with BTHS. At the recent annual meeting, Grace was voted as 2nd Vice President in charge of memberships. A long-time township resident, Grace is married to Jim, of the famed Henry family.

She replaces Marge Haskins Cook who served as an officer for 14 years and saw membership increase from a few dozen to more than 150. We thank Marge for her attentiveness and encouraging young and old to support our organization. Marge will continue her responsibilities with the engraved brick program

George Dzurik is our new docent coordinator. He and his wife Sandy secure individuals to represent us at the Bissell-Tucek House when we have open house for the public or for special occasions. He replaces Bruce Chittock who served for several years in this capacity and as treasurer.

Members are encouraged to take their turns as docents and spend a Saturday afternoon at least once a year at the House welcoming visitors. Background information about the museum is available for perusal. You need not be an expert on Bainbridge's past. We merely need for everyone to provide a little time to welcome visitors during their brief visit.



Bainbridge Township Historical Society accepts amusement park picture

A framed 41" x 44" aerial picture of the former Geauga Lake amusement park that also shows portions of old Sea World will soon be hung in the hallway at the Bissell-Tucek House & Museum. Donated by Wildwater Kingdom Bill Spehn, Director of Waterpark Operations and shown here with BTHS staff Nancy Grossman (l) assistant curator and Elaine Witmer, curator, the photograph was taken sometime in the mid 1990's. Approximately 90 percent of the park, known by various names over its 100+ year history, is located in Bainbridge Twp. This photograph will join another color drawing of just the amusement park. Look for them when visiting our historic home.

3rd Graders Return to Bissell -Tucek House

The historic society hosted a visit by 3rd grade students from Kenston Local Schools in mid-May as part of their review of Ohio and local history. Nine classes totaling 218 students and 18 adults spent about an hour at our museum covering two mornings. Docents and others from BTHS presented local artifacts and historical memorabilia. The children then spent another portion of the morning at Restland Cemetery absorbing grave stone facts. A collage of pictures of these visits will appear in the next newsletter.



Several children are shown here studying the tombstone of Enos Kingsley who emigrated from Massachusetts in 1816. He served as a township trustee in Bainbridge. Kingsley Drive is named after him.

Officers 2015

President

Charles Hesse
216-407-2616 (C)

VP & Program Chr

Donna Yuse
440-543-3199

VP & Membership Chr

Grace Henry
440-543-1579

Secretary

Harriet Novy
440-543-9206

Treasurer

Donna Lucas
440-564-9634

Editor & Publisher

Bill Takacs
440-543-4991

Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. generally in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of Route 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road.

Bainbridge Township Historical Society
17870 Chillcothe Road
Bainbridge Township
OH 44023-0363



Town Hall—Circa 1914
Now—Burns Lindow Bldg

Everyone enjoys the refreshments of our monthly meetings; so remember when the refreshment sheet gets passed around to please pick a convenient date and add your name to the list to provide a voluntary item. This makes the job of our Refreshment Committee much easier. Barb Phan and Lois Little are our chairwomen. Besides their setting up tables and making beverages, they too often have to make numerous calls to find bakery volunteers. Call Barb Phan at 440-543-7972 if you can help.

Thank you to the following for hosting refreshments.

March - Gerry Chittock, Marge Cook, Barb Hesse, Carol Malz, Bethany Phan

April – Barb Hesse, Donna Lucas, Dick Newton, Janet Novak, Elaine Witmer, Donna Yuse

May - Sandy Dzurik, Lois Little, Pat Mitchell

 * **Welcome New Members** *
 * **Laura Goretta** *
 * **Marsha Hedberg** *
 * **Walter Zimmer** *
 * **David & Ann Foster** *

The Bissell-Tucek House & Museum will be open on the third Saturdays - July 18, August 15 and September 19 from 1 - 4 p.m. It can be opened by special appointment for group tours. The House contains numerous memorabilia depicting old Bainbridge history. The public is encouraged to visit and receive a tour from one of our docents. Admission is free.

Also, consider buying an inscribed brick for a loved one to place along the outside sidewalk. Prices are: \$50 and \$80. Forms are available at the house.

Now that renovations of the north side of the House are nearly complete, we can begin to accept your permanent donations or loaned artifacts. Please call Elaine Witmer at 440-543-3442 to determine whether your "gift" can be accepted. We don't want too many duplicates, but pictures of old Bainbridge are always welcomed.

We're always looking for ideas and articles for this newsletter. If you have a story to share, please let me know. If you would rather not write it, call me at 440-543-4991 and we'll try to get on tape or take notes. We really need to hear from you.
Bill Takacs

 * **Just a reminder -- Our constitution states that membership dues are**
 * **to be paid in September of each year. Deadline for payment is De-**
 * **cember 1. Those current members who have not paid by December**
 * **1 will not receive a newsletter. Annual dues are: \$10 for singles,**
 * **\$20 for family. Life Membership for Individual or Family - \$100.**
 * **Make checks payable to Bainbridge Township Historical Society**
 * **(BTHS). Payment should be given to Grace Henry at meetings or**
 * **mailed to her at 7589 Pettibone Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023**

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter
17870 Chillcothe Road
Bainbridge Twp.OH 44023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

2015 Meeting Schedule

September 9 - Joan Demirjian, member and local journalist, will host a tour of the Southwest Cemetery which is located adjacent to her home. (It is sometimes referred to as the Henry Cemetery). Joan is located at 18891 Brewster Road, off Pettibone Road...drive south towards Wildwater Kingdom. Note time and details of meeting: Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Joan's house. Background and tour of cemetery is scheduled from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. Dessert will follow. Look for balloons on Brewster Road that lead to parking area. If having trouble, call Chuck Hesse 216-407-2616 (c) or Joan at 440-247-2386 (c).

October 14 - Back by popular demand is Ralph Pflingsten, expert on the Ravenna Arsenal. He will focus his talk on the importance of railroads that traveled on 130 miles of track at the arsenal, particularly during World War II. The arsenal employed more than 15,000 at its peak.

Note: Meeting will be held at town hall, 7:30 p.m.

November 11 - "We'll hear from Eileen Giunta about the role of the Red Cross volunteers and nurses during World War II. Eileen will explain the work of each service and display items from these various units." Meeting at Burns-Lindow Building. 7:30 p.m.

December 9 - Holiday Party at Burns-Lindow Building. Bring a dish to share and gift (no more than \$5.00 value) for a fun-filled evening. Party starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.